

## Veterans Health Administration State Veterans Homes Program

**Mission Statement:** VA ensures that eligible Veterans' preferences for long-term services and support are honored by facilitating a high-quality, integrated continuum of care through partnerships with State Veterans Homes.

**Vision Statement:** VA and SVHs shared stewardship provides Veterans with state-of-the-art care.

The State Veterans Homes (SVH) program dates back to the post-Civil War era when several states established homes to provide shelter and care to homeless and disabled soldiers and sailors. In 1888, Congress first authorized Federal grants-in-aid to states that maintained these homes, including a per diem allowance for each Veteran of twenty-seven cents, or about \$100 per year.

SVHs are owned, operated, managed and financed by the individual states. There are 161 SVHs across all 50 states and in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico offering three levels of care\*: nursing home care, domiciliary care, and/or adult day health care to about 20,000 Veterans. SVHs are primarily for Veterans, but states may admit non-Veteran residents (must be either spouses of Veterans or parents of service members who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces) as long as they do not exceed 25% of the facility population.

State Veterans Homes Program Key Metrics			
	FY19	FY20	FY21
<b>Total Programs</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>160</b>
Nursing Home	148	149	153
Domiciliary	54	53	51
Adult Day Health Care	3	3	3
<b>Average Daily Census</b>	<b>25,240</b>	<b>23,343</b>	<b>19,265</b>
Veterans	23,358	21,583	17,619
Non-Veterans (Spouse & Parents)	1,882	1,760	1,646
<b>Total Per Diem Payments</b>	<b>\$1.39 Billion</b>	<b>1.39 Billion</b>	<b>1.19 Billion</b>
Construction Appropriations	\$150 Million	\$ 90 Million	\$590 Million
<b>Total Survey</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>213</b>
Annual	201	41	203
Recognition	9	3	8
For Cause	3	7	2

There are three major functions that make up the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) national SVH program to include: SVH Construction Grants Program, SVH Clinical Oversight and Survey Program Management, and State Home Per Diem Program.

### SVH Construction Grants Program

To receive funding for a SVH, states must sign a Memorandum of Agreement with VA. VA provides reimbursement of up to 65% of allowable costs to states for the construction and renovation of SVHs. VA program staff review and approve initial grant applications from states for listing on the annual VA Priority List, which the VA Secretary then approves. VA must fund projects in order of the VA Priority List until all funds have been awarded. If a state does not receive funding in a fiscal year, they can stay on the list and continue building their facility using only state funds until they are approved for reimbursed if funds are available. States have five years to complete construction after the award has been signed. The number of awards provided depends on the number of projects, their costs listed on the priority list, and the amount of appropriation in a given fiscal year is decided by Congress.

## **SVH Clinical Oversight and Survey Program Management**

VA conducts a “recognition survey” when a state seeks to have a facility recognized as a SVH and become eligible for VA per diem payments. The recognition survey reviews policies, procedures, and processes and ensures compliance with applicable regulations. The Under Secretary for Health certifies the recognition of a SVH. After recognition, SVHs are surveyed annually for recertification. Should VA issue citations to an SVH, the SVH is required to submit a corrective action plan to the Medical Center Director to resolve the deficiency in a timely manner to maintain certification.

## **State Home Per Diem Program**

VA pays per diem to states for the care of eligible Veterans. There are different per diem rates for nursing home care, domiciliary and adult day health care. For Nursing Home care, the SVH receives a basic per diem payment unless a Veteran qualifies under 38 U.S.C. 1745 for a higher prevailing rate per diem. For Adult Day Health care, the SVH receives a basic per diem payment unless a SVH is recognized as a medical model and the Veteran qualifies under 38 U.S.C. 1745 for a higher prevailing rate for per diem. For Domiciliary care, the SVH receives a basic per diem rate. Per Diem costs for all levels of care, including the higher prevailing rates, are tabulated, and reimbursement rates are adjusted annually by VA and published by VHA.

*\*[38 CFR Part 51 regulations](#) govern the SVH program for Nursing Home, Domiciliary and Adult Day Health Care. The regulations outline both social and medical models of Adult Day Health Care.*